THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are only 2 (two) full-time casual labourers engaged on year-to-year basis in Wireless Monitoring Organization in the Department of Telecom.

(b) The casual labourers have been engaged for the job of cleanliness of Wireless Monitoring Stations.

(c) There are no labour unions functioning among the labourers and as such their engaging in union related work does not arise.

(d) It is not possible to provide them with permanent jobs as no regular sanctioned posts are available for the purpose.

Budgetary allocation for VPTs

3837. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which have so far been covered and provided with Village Public Telephones under Bharat Nirman Programme indicating overall teledensity in the year 2007 as compared to 2006 particularly in rural areas; and

(b) the amount of increase in budgetary allocations made during 2007-08 in comparison to 2006-07, to cover 66.28 million villages in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Under Bharat Nirman Programme, remaining 66,822 uncovered villages in the country were to be provided with VPT. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 31st March, 2007, out of 66,822 unconnected eligible villages, 46,969 villages have been provided with VPT facility and the remaining 19,853 villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by November, 2007. Overall teledensity of the country is 18.31% as on 31.03.2007 as against 12.74% as on 31.03.2006. In comparison, rural teledensity was 2.91% as on 31.03.2007 as against 1.86% as on 31.03.2006.

(b) A Statement indicating State-wise allocation made during 2007-08 and 2006-07 to cover 66,822 uncovered villages in the country is given below.

Statement

State-wise allocation made during 2007-08 and 2006-07 to cover 66,822 villages in the country

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Circles/Metro Districts	Budgetary Allocation 2007-08	2006-07	Remarks
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1 10	1.04	
3.	Assam	0.25	2.51	
4.	Bihar	—	—	
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.08	0.79	
6.	Gujarat			
7.	Haryana			
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.25	2.48	
9.	Jharkhand	1.52	15.25	
10.	Jammu& Kashmir	0.42	4.19	
11.	Karnataka	—	—	All villages covered with VPT
12.	Kerala		—	All villages covered with VPT
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.40	3.99	
14.	Maharashtra	0.45	4.46	
15.	NE-I&NE-II	1.68	16.80	
16.	Orissa	4.41	44.09	
17.	Punjab	—	—	All villages covered with VPT
18.	Rajasthan	0.02	0.16	All villages covered with VPT
19.	Tamil Nadu including Chennai			
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1.65	2.05	
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	3.19	31.90	
22.	Uttarakhand			
23.	West Bengal including Kolkata	—	_	
	TOTAL:	14.41	129.71	